

US Serial No.: 10/755,524

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-4, 8-15 and 17-24 are pending. Claims 1, 15 and 24 are amended as noted above. Support for these amendments is found in the application (and provisional application also for that matter) and claims as filed, which are made to more particularly point out and define the subject invention to overcome the cited art of record. No new matter is believed added by any of the amendments made here. Reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested in view of the amendments above and remarks below.

Herewith is an Applicant Initiated Interview Form, completed to reflect the nature and results of our November 27, 2006 Telephone Interview. The Examiner's assistance is noted with appreciation.

Claim Rejection -- 35 USC 102

Claims 1-4, 8-15 and 17-24 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Jabsen* (US 4,124,444). This rejection is **traversed** as moot, insofar as it even applies to the now presented claims. It is well established under the patent laws that there can be no anticipation unless (1) all the same elements are (2) found in exactly the same situation and (3) are united in the same way to (4) perform the identical function.

Particularly, neither *Jabsen*, alone or in combination with any of the patents of record (assuming such a combination is proper, which Applicant assert is not proper based on the teaching in *Jabsen* and the other art of record), teaches or suggests the now recited combination of features of Applicant's invention, which includes *inter alia* [i.e., for each independent claim 1, 15 and 24]: [a] a rectangular plate having a length and a width where the length is greater than the width, and opposing side edges extending in respective length and width directions with the length direction being longer than the width direction; and, [b] the slots have a length and a width where the length is greater than the width and with the length extending parallel to the length direction of the plate and the slots are each located on or along a center axis of the plate relative to the length direction of the plate.

For at least the features [a] and [b] noted above, *Jabsen* lacks such elements, and

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US Serial No.: 10/755,524

in fact, based on the teachings of *Jabsen*, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be properly motivated to modify *Jabsen* to obtain Applicant's now recited invention. The openings 26 of *Jabsen* (which are somewhat analogous to applicant's slots 42) do not extend parallel to the length direction of the grid member 14, and per *Jabsen* preferably extend perpendicular to this direction (i.e., "opening 26 whose axis is preferably coincident with that of the grid member", *Jabsen* at col. 4, lines 41-43). Thus, not only does *Jabsen* fail to teach at least these two elements of applicant's invention, but *Jabsen* teaches against modifying itself to be like applicant's invention else *Jabsen* would not function for its intended purpose according to its own teaching. Accordingly, for at least these reasons *Jabsen* cannot (and does not) anticipate Applicant's recited invention. Thus, the rejection of independent claims 1, 15 and 24, as well as their respective dependent claims for at least the same reasons, based upon *Jabsen* is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

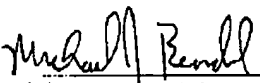
In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections to the application have been accommodated, traversed and/or rendered moot. Accordingly, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is requested in due course.

If there are any questions or a need for clarification on a point, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or other convenient means to try and quickly resolve the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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